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Regional NSW at Your Fingertips

Everything you wanted to know about Regional NSW is now available at your fingertips, with today's release of **Regional Statistics New South Wales 2002**, by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

For the first time in any ABS publication, information on remoteness is included. Remoteness areas, a measure of remoteness based on the population of an area and its access to services are available for all Local Government Areas in NSW.

Other features in this publication are labour force status, educational attainment, crime, disability, area, population, births and deaths, building statistics, hotels and motels, local council financial data and SEIFA index of relative disadvantage.

Some interesting facts from **Regional Statistics New South Wales 2002** are:

- The Fairfield-Liverpool Statistical Region (SR) had the highest unemployment rate (9.9%) in the Sydney region, in August 2001, while Newcastle Statistical Region Sector (SRS) had the highest (11.4%) for the remainder of NSW.
- Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney SRs had the highest participation rate in the labour force (89.8%) for people with non-school qualifications, in May 2001. Canterbury-Bankstown (SR) had the lowest participation rate (53.7%) for people without non-school qualifications.
- Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney SRs had the highest victimisation rate in Sydney for both household and personal crime, in April 2001, with rates of 19.7% and 8.4% respectively. Outside of Sydney, Hunter SR had a 11.6% victimisation rate for household crime, and the Illawarra and South Eastern SRs had a rate of 6.3% for personal crime.
- Just over half (54.3%) of people aged 15-64 years in Lower Northern Sydney and Northern Beaches SRs had non-school qualifications in 2001. In comparison, just over one-quarter (25.1%) of people in the same age group who lived in Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West SRs had non-school qualifications.
- The Hunter (SR) had the highest rate of persons with a disability at 24.5%, whereas Eastern Suburbs (SR) had the lowest rate (11.4%) in 1998.
- Over 96 % of people in the Sydney Statistical Division (SD) live in 'major city' areas.
 Comparatively, in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA), 31% live in 'major city' areas, 68% live in 'inner regional' areas and 0.4% in 'outer regional' areas. In Coonamble (LGA), 100% live in 'remote' areas and in Bourke (LGA), the same percentage live in 'very remote' areas.
- Blacktown had the greatest natural population increase with 4,492 births and 1,169 deaths in 2000. Great Lakes had the lowest with 244 births and 322 deaths.

Further details are available in **Regional Statistics New South Wales 2002** (cat. no. 1362.1). Media requiring copies of this publication for reporting purposes should contact Jackie Cooper on (02) 9268 4252 to obtain a copy.

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